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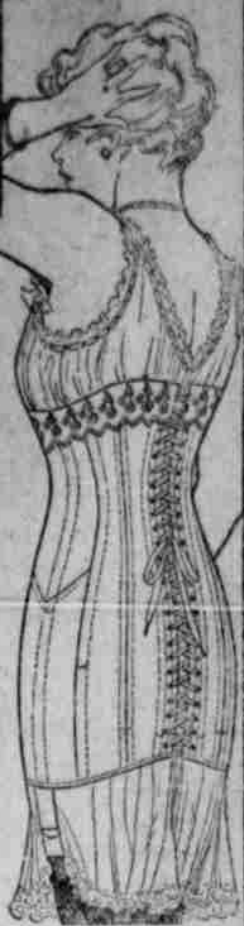
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TOO MUCH FOR STRANGER

Evidently Was Not Built to Appreciate Such Terrible Bursts of Artistic Feeling.

"Isn't it wonderful—the death of day, the glory of the slowly purpling sky?"

"Yes," said the stranger. "Hush! Can you not hear the night song of the birds? How charming!" Hilary sat beside the man. "We two in the gloaming and all else afar," said Hilary; "what a privilege we must count so sacred an hour as this, when one may gaze upon the evening sky and lift up one's soul to the firmament itself!"

The stranger stirred uneasily. "And tomorrow, day will dawn—the sun will stream upon the fair land; flowers will blossom, and in the forests soft winds will gently sigh and—"

"Yes." "Have you never," confidentially inquired Hilary, "have you never wandered in the wood, and found a pellucid stream, and removed your footwear and permitted your pink toes to sink within the limpid water?"

"I got stuck in a swamp once." The stranger pulled his drooping mustache savagely; his voice was hoarse.

Hilary gazed rapturously at the sky; zigzag streaks of saffron scarlet were fading, fading into the night. He spoke of it to the stranger.

At last Hilary rose. "I shall see you in the bright and beautiful morning," he said; "possibly we may stroll in the fragrant fields together? Good-night!"

"Good-night." The heavy-set stranger with the plaid vest strode to the desk and said to the clerk, "What's the penalty for killin' in this state?"

"Electrocution."

"What time does the first train goin' west leave in the mornin'?"

"Six twenty."

"Gimme my bill, an' call me at 5:45 sharp."—Judge.

WAS FIRST SILVER WEDDING

Now Popular Ceremony Said to Have Originated Through a Whim of Monarch of France.

The fashion of silver weddings dates back to the reign of Hugues Capet, king of France, in 987. Once as Hugues was arranging his uncle's affairs he found on one of the estates a servant who had grown gray in the service of his relative. On the farm with this old man was also a serving woman, who was as old as he and also unmarried, who had been the most devoted and hardworking of the woman servants of the king's uncle. When the king heard these praises of the two he ordered them to be brought before him and said to the woman:

"Your service is great, greater than this man's, whose services were great enough, for the woman always finds work and obedience harder than a man, and therefore I will give you a reward. At your age I know of none better than a dowry and a husband."

"The dowry is here—this farm from this time forth belongs to you. If this man who has worked with you five and twenty years is willing to marry you then the husband is ready."

"Your majesty," stammered the old peasant confusedly, "how is it possible that we should marry, having already silver hairs?"

"Then it shall be a silver wedding," answered the king, "and here I give you a wedding ring," drawing a costly ring from his finger and placing the hands of the thankful old people together.

This soon became known all over France, and raised such enthusiasm that it became a fashion after 25 years of married life to celebrate a silver wedding.—Lippincott's Magazine.

Woman's Attitude Toward Law.

In most cases woman is lawless; she will obey the law because she is afraid of it, but she will not respect it. For her it is always sic volo, sic jubeo. I suspect that if she had had a share in making the law she would not have been like this, for she would have become aware of the relation between law and life. Roughly she tends to look upon the law as tyrannous if she does not like it, as protective if she does like it. Probably there is little relation between her own moral impulse, which is generous, and the law, which is only just. (That is, just in intention.) This is qualified by the moral spirit in woman, which increasingly leads her to the view that certain things should be done and others not be done. But even then it is likely that at heart woman does not respect the law; she may respect what it represents—strength—but not what it implies—equity. She is infinitely more rebellious than man, and where she has power she inflames the world in protest. I do not refer to the militant suffragists, but to woman's general attitude.—W. L. George, in the Atlantic.

My Lord, the Elephant.

Recently an old circus man recounted a personal experience of an elephant's intelligence in obtaining what it wanted.

When feeding it with potatoes, which the animal had been taking from his hand, the animal failed to secure one which rolled just out of the reach of its trunk.

Contemplating the situation for a few seconds, he blew a gust of wind against the potato, causing it to rebound against the wall, and thus to come within reach.

PLAN FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

Important States Are Taking Up the Matter Since Its Importance Has Been Recognized.

Compulsory insurance of the worker against the mischances of sickness is the reform now in the order of the day. The institution is already established in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Luxemburg, Norway, Holland, Great Britain, Russia, Roumania, Serbia and Greece. When a social reform has won success in Russia and the Balkan states one may suppose that it is about to receive a hearing in the United States of America. And now three of our chief industrial states, New York, Massachusetts and New Jersey, are discussing sickness insurance bills under the more optimistic name, "health insurance."

These bills spring largely from a common source and are almost identical in terms, says the New Republic. If they pass, the manual worker or any other employee with a salary under \$1,200 a year will be assured medical and surgical attendance and nursing through a period of sickness extending to six months; medical and surgical supplies up to a cost of \$50 and money benefits equivalent to two-thirds of his wages for a period not longer than six months. In return for his advantages under the law he will be forced to contribute, in the ratio of his earnings, toward two-fifths of the aggregate cost of insurance. His employer will contribute another two-fifths and the remaining fifth will come out of the state budget.

Not the Teapot's Fault.

Pat was very fond of strong tea. He always praised a housekeeper according to the strength of the tea she made. Last Saturday the woman of the house where Pat worked was pouring out the tea for his breakfast. It was coming out very slowly, and the good woman asked Pat to excuse the teapot as it had a bad spout. Pat (not liking the look of the tea) said sadly: "Oh, begor, ma'am, don't blame the teapot, because anything weak must go aisy."

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